

Distributed Discrimination of Strain and Temperature Based on Brillouin Dynamic Grating in an Optical Fiber

Kazuo HOTATE^{1*}, Weiwen ZOU², Rodrigo Kendy YAMASHITA¹, and Zuyuan HE²

¹Department of Electrical Engineering and Information Systems, The University of Tokyo, Japan

²State Key Laboratory Advanced Optical Communication Systems and Networks, Department of Electronic Engineering, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China

*Corresponding author: Kazuo HOTATE E-mail: hotate@sagnac.t.u-tokyo.ac.jp

Abstract: This paper reviews distributed discrimination of strain and temperature by use of an optical fiber based on fiber optic nerve systems. The preliminary method based on multiple resonance peaks of the Brillouin gain spectrum in a specially-designed fiber is firstly introduced. The complete discrimination of strain and temperature based on the Brillouin dynamic grating in a polarization maintaining fiber is extensively presented. The basic principle and two experimental schemes of distributed discrimination based on fiber optic nerve systems are demonstrated. The performance of the high discriminative accuracy (0.1 °C–0.3 °C and 5 $\mu\epsilon$ –12 $\mu\epsilon$) and high spatial resolution (~10 cm) with the effective measurement points of about 50 for a standard system configuration or about 1000 for a modified one will be highly expected in real industry applications.

Keywords: Fiber optic nerve systems, Brillouin optical correlation-domain analysis, Brillouin dynamic grating, distributed discrimination, strain, temperature

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1. Introduction

The fiber optic nerve system of the Brillouin optical correlation-domain analysis (BOCDA) [1–3] or reflectometry (BOCDR) [4–6] takes use of the correlation-domain continuous-wave technique, which is more advantageous than the Brillouin optical time-domain analysis (BOTDA) [7, 8] and reflectometry (BOTDR) [9, 10]. Fiber optic nerve systems (BOCDA and BOCDR) have been theoretically investigated and experimentally realized to provide outstanding performances in diagnosis of fully-distributed strain or temperature disturbances with an extremely-high spatial resolution of from centimeters [1, 2, 4, 5] to several millimeters [3, 6] along the whole fiber under test

(FUT). Regardless of the ability of how short segment can be diagnosed, either BOCDA/R or BOTDA/R via measurement of a single parameter (i.e., Brillouin frequency shift, BFS) is unable to distinguish the response to strain from the response to temperature [11–13].

In this paper, we demonstrate the research trends of distributed discrimination of strain and temperature by use of an optical fiber based on fiber optic nerve systems. Firstly, the preliminary method based on multiple acoustic modes in a specially designed fiber is introduced. Secondly, the principle and experimental demonstration of the complete discrimination of strain and temperature based on the Brillouin dynamic grating (BDG) in a polarization maintaining are presented. Finally, the

development of distributed discrimination of strain and temperature is reviewed.

2. Preliminary method

2.1 Mechanism of the Brillouin-based sensing technique

Brillouin scattering is a photon-phonon interaction similar to the case of Raman scattering [14]. Brillouin scattering is due to the fact that annihilation of a pump photon creates a Stokes photon and a phonon simultaneously. The phonon is the vibrational modes of atoms, which is also called a propagation density wave or an acoustic phonon. The newly-generated photon suffers a down-shifted frequency from the pump photon due to the Doppler shift associated with the fact that the generated acoustic phonons move forward. The down-shifted frequency is called the Brillouin frequency shift (BFS, ν_B) given by

$$\nu_B = \frac{2n_{\text{eff}}}{\lambda} \cdot V_a \quad (1)$$

where λ is the optical wavelength, n_{eff} the effective refractive index, and V_a the effective acoustic velocity [14]. The BFS in silica optical fibers is 10 GHz – 11 GHz in the 1550-nm region, as shown in Fig. 1 [13].

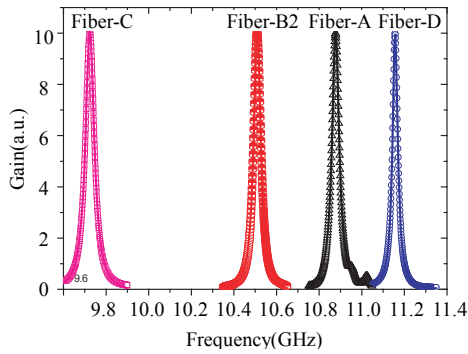


Fig. 1 Measured (symbolic points) and Lorentzian fitted (solid curves) BGS of Fiber-A, Fiber-B2, Fiber-C, and Fiber-D with different dopant concentrations and different-diameter cores [13] (copyright @ JLT).

As depicted in Fig. 2, it is clarified that the BFS change ($\delta\nu_B$) has a good linear dependence on strain ($\delta\varepsilon$) and/or temperature (δT) [11–13], which can be

expressed by

$$\delta\nu_B = C_v^\varepsilon \cdot \delta\varepsilon + C_v^T \cdot \delta T \quad (2)$$

where C_v^ε ($=0.04 \text{ MHz}/\mu\varepsilon - 0.05 \text{ MHz}/\mu\varepsilon$) and C_v^T ($=0.9 \text{ MHz}/^\circ\text{C} - 1.1 \text{ MHz}/^\circ\text{C}$) denote the strain and temperature coefficients. The relation given in (2) is the basic mechanism of Brillouin distributed sensing techniques [1–10], however, gives a challenge how to discriminate their responses by use of a single-length optical fiber.

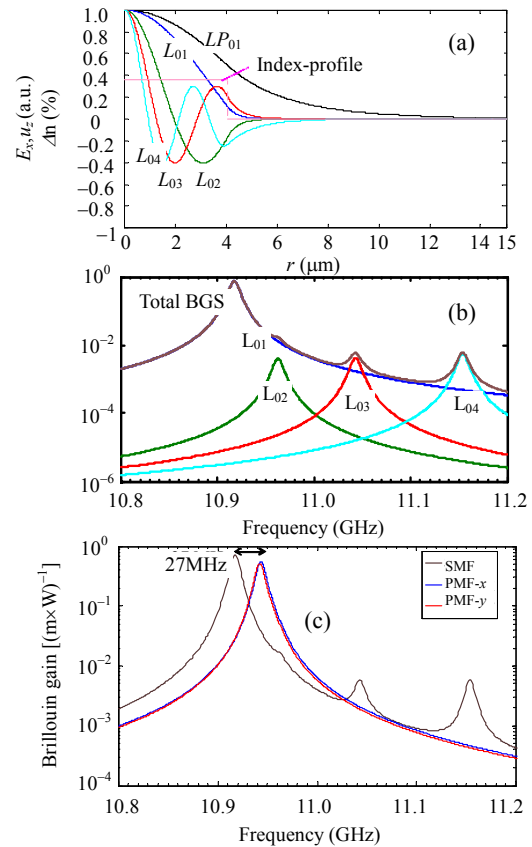


Fig. 2 Simulation results: (a) evaluated field distributions of the optical LP_{01} mode and four longitudinal acoustic L_{01} modes in the SMF, (b) total BGS (solid curve) composed of four L_{01} modes induced the BGS (dashed curves), and (c) experimentally measured result [18] (copyright @ IEEE PTL).

2.2 Multiple peaks in a specially-designed optical fiber

A preliminary method is to use a specially-designed fiber with multiple Brillouin peaks that exhibit different frequency variations in temperature and strain [15–17]. As shown in Fig. 2

[18], there are four resonance peaks of the Brillouin gain spectrum (BGS) even in a standard single mode optical fiber (SMF). This is because the acoustic wavenumber is far larger than the optical one [19] so that four acoustic modes can simultaneously exist in an SMF.

The BGS in a w-shaped high-delta optical fiber with the F-doped depressed inner cladding (F-HDF) has four well-separated peaks, as shown in Fig. 3 [17]. The first-order and the fourth-order (see Fig. 4) are more suitable for the discrimination of strain and temperature since they are attributed to two separate layers of the GeO₂-doped core and F-doped inner cladding [19–21].

Although the preliminary method based on a specially-designed fiber [15–17] is a frequency-based measurement technique prior to the power-based one [22], it is still ill-conditioned and physically limited due to the correlated relationship among multiple peaks.

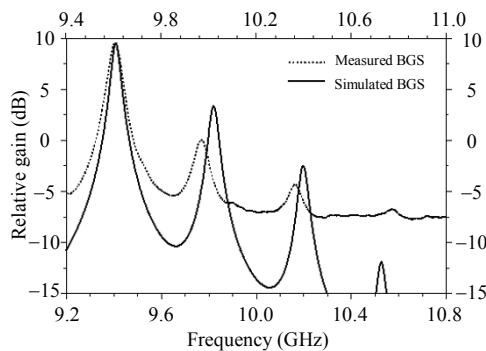


Fig. 3 Typical BGS measured at 25 °C in the loose state (dotted curve) compared with the simulated BGS (solid curve) in the F-HDF: bottom axis – measured BGS; top axis – simulated BGS [17] (copyright @ OSA OL).

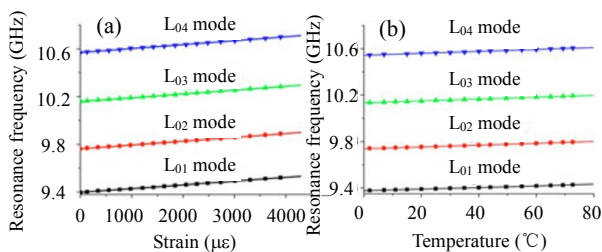


Fig. 4 Resonance frequencies of different acoustic modes as a function of (a) strain and (b) temperature: solid lines – least-squares linearly fits to data. [17] (copyright @ OSA OL).

3. Complete discrimination of strain and temperature

3.1 Principle

A Panda-type polarization-maintaining fiber (PMF), which has been widely used for optical fiber communications [23] or fiber-optic sensors [24], is composed of two B₂O₃-doped-silica stress-applying parts that are inserted in a pure-silica cladding and symmetrically placed beside a GeO₂-doped-silica core [see Figs. 5(a) and 5(b)]. Due to the difference in thermal contraction between B₂O₃-doped silica and pure silica, two-dimensional stress is raised and stored into the core during the drawing process in fiber fabrication [23]. The residual stress makes the refractive index along x -axis (n_x) slightly greater than that along y -axis (n_y). Consequently, a lightwave linearly polarized along x -axis (so called slow axis) propagates slower than that along y -axis (fast axis). The difference between n_x and n_y (i.e., birefringence $B = n_x - n_y$) is small (e.g., $B = \sim 3.3 \times 10^{-4}$ for the fiber used here) but large enough so that lightwaves linearly-polarized along either x - or y -axis can propagate through the fiber while maintaining their polarization states in despite of the external disturbance.

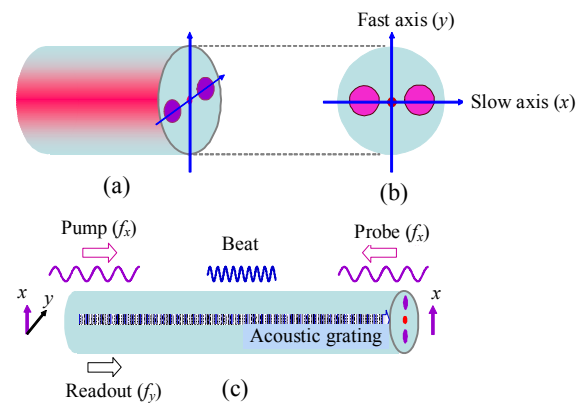


Fig. 5 Schematic diagram of the Panda-type PMF: (a) side view, (b) cross section, and (c) principle of the BDG generation and readout.

As schematically shown in Fig. 5(c), two lightwaves, one is called pump with the optical frequency f_x and the other called probe with the

frequency f_x' , counter-propagate through the fiber; the pump and the probe are linearly polarized along x -axis, for instance. When the frequency difference between the pump and probe $f_x - f_x'$ equals the BFS given by (1), SBS occurs in which an acoustic wave (phonons) propagating at the velocity V_a is significantly generated. The acoustic wave stretches or compresses the fiber core longitudinally and thus modulates periodically the refractive index. Consequently, a Bragg grating moving forward at V_a is formed. Because the acoustic wave as a longitudinal wave exhibits no dependence on transverse polarization [18], the y -polarized readout light can also be strongly diffracted by the acoustic grating generated by the x -polarized pump and probe, as long as the frequency f_y of the y -polarized readout light satisfies a phase matching condition that requires f_y to deviate from that of the x -polarized pump (f_x) by a birefringence-determined frequency deviation [25, 26]

$$f_{yx} = f_y - f_x = f_x \cdot B / n_x. \quad (3)$$

The residual tensile stress (σ_{xy}) determining the Panda-type PMF's birefringence changes with the ambient temperature (T_i):

$$B \propto \sigma_{xy} = k \cdot (\alpha_3 - \alpha_2) \cdot (T_{\text{fic}} - T_i) \quad (4)$$

where T_{fic} denotes the fictive temperature (e.g., 850 °C) of silica glass, α_3 (α_2) is the thermal coefficient of B₂O₃-doped-silica stress-applying parts (pure-silica cladding), and k is a constant determined by the geometrical location of stress-applying parts in the fiber [27]. When temperature increases ($\Delta T = T_i - 25 > 0$), the residual stress is released, and thus the birefringence decreases as

$$\Delta B^T = -B_0 \cdot \frac{\Delta T}{T_{\text{fic}} - 25} \quad (5)$$

where B_0 is the intrinsic birefringence at room temperature ($T_i = 25$ °C). In contrast, when an axial strain $\Delta \varepsilon$ is applied to the fiber, additional stress is generated because the stress-applying parts and the cladding contract in the lateral direction differently

due to their different Poisson's ratios ($\gamma_3 > \gamma_2$) [27], and the birefringence is enlarged with applied strain as

$$\Delta B^\varepsilon = +B_0 \cdot \frac{(\gamma_3 - \gamma_2)}{(\alpha_3 - \alpha_2)(T_{\text{fic}} - 25)} \cdot \Delta \varepsilon. \quad (6)$$

Consequently, the birefringence-determined frequency deviation f_{yx} varies linearly with a temperature increase and the applied strain, i.e.,

$$\Delta f_{yx} = f_{yx} - f_{yx0} = C_f^\varepsilon \Delta \varepsilon + C_f^T \Delta T \quad (7)$$

where f_{yx0} is the frequency deviation [see (3)] at 25 °C and in the loose condition, and C_f^ε and C_f^T are the strain coefficient and the temperature coefficient of the frequency deviation, respectively. According to (4)–(6), one can deduce the strain coefficient

$$C_f^\varepsilon = +f_{yx0} \cdot \frac{(\gamma_3 - \gamma_2)}{(\alpha_3 - \alpha_2)(T_{\text{fic}} - 25)} \quad (8)$$

and temperature coefficient

$$C_f^T = -f_{yx0} \cdot \frac{1}{(T_{\text{fic}} - 25)}. \quad (9)$$

According to (8) and (9), one knows that the strain coefficient C_f^ε is positive while the temperature coefficient C_f^T is negative, which means that the responses of the birefringence-determined frequency deviation to strain and temperature are in opposite directions. In contrast, C_v^ε and C_v^T in (2) are both positive values because the Young's modulus of silica is nonlinearly increased by strain and temperature [13].

By solving (2) and (7) jointly, we get the strain ($\Delta \varepsilon$) and temperature (ΔT) as [26]

$$\begin{pmatrix} \Delta \varepsilon \\ \Delta T \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{C_v^\varepsilon \cdot C_f^T - C_v^T \cdot C_f^\varepsilon} \begin{pmatrix} C_f^T & -C_v^T \\ -C_f^\varepsilon & C_v^\varepsilon \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \Delta \nu_B \\ \Delta f_{yx} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (10)$$

In physics, the two phenomena/quantities, i.e., the BFS [(2)] and the birefringence of the fiber [see (7)], are inherently independent. In mathematics, C_f^T has a sign opposite to those of other three coefficients, so that the denominator ($C_v^\varepsilon \cdot C_f^T - C_v^T \cdot C_f^\varepsilon$) in (10) has the significant value. Therefore, a complete discrimination of strain and temperature based on simultaneous measurement of the two quantities can be ensured.

3.2 Experimental demonstration

The experimental setup is shown in Fig. 6. Part A in Fig. 6 is a typical pump-probe scheme to measure the BGS (and thus BFS ν_B) [7], except that a set of polarization-maintaining (PM) components (polarizer, PM isolator, PM circulator, and polarization beam splitter/combiner) are introduced to ensure the pump and probe lightwaves polarized along x -axis. The light source is a 1549-nm distributed-feedback laser diode (DFB-LD1). The intensities of the pump and the probe incident to a 31-meter-length fiber under test are amplified with erbium-doped fiber amplifiers to about 140 mW and about 1 mW, respectively. The frequency of the probe is down-shifted from that of the pump for 10.8 GHz to 11.1 GHz with a single-sideband electro-optic modulator (SSBM) controlled by a microwave synthesizer, so the BGS is obtained as shown in Fig. 7(a), which depicts the BGS of the 31-meter-length FUT. The synchronous detection scheme was employed by chopping the pump with the electro-optic modulator (EOM) and detecting with a lock-in amplifier (LIA1) to ensure high precision in characterization of the BFS ν_B . A reproducible accuracy of 0.1 MHz was confirmed [17].

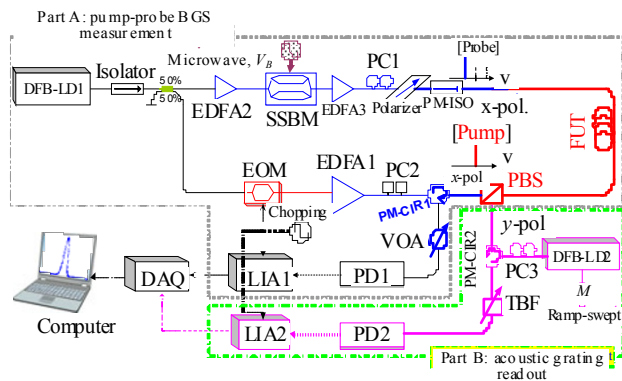


Fig. 6 Configuration of the measurement system: Part A – pump-probe scheme to measure the Brillouin gain spectrum and thus the Brillouin frequency shift along x -axis; Part B – detection of the diffraction spectrum of the acoustic grating in SBS to y -polarized readout light [26] (copyright@OSA OE).

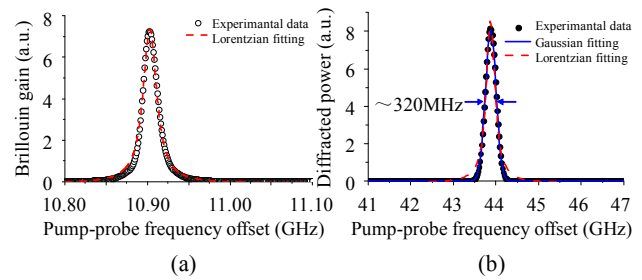


Fig. 7 Measured Brillouin gain spectrum (a) and the diffraction spectrum of the dynamic acoustic grating induced by SBS to y -polarized readout light (b) in a 31-meter-length fiber at room temperature and in the loose condition: circles denote experimental data, and the solid (dashed) curve corresponds to Gaussian (Lorentzian) fitting to experimental data [26] (copyright@OSA OE).

Part B in Fig. 6 is for precisely measuring the BDG's diffraction spectrum to y -polarized readout light (and thus the birefringence-determined frequency deviation f_{yx}). The readout light is generated from the other laser diode DFB-LD2 (central wavelength: ~ 1549 nm), whose optical frequency is ramp-swept by linearly modulating its dc injection current. Through the polarization beam splitter/combiner after a PM circulator, the linearly polarized readout light (intensity: ~ 63 mW) is launched into the FUT with its polarization along the fiber's y -axis. At first, the acoustic phonons in SBS (and thus the dynamic acoustic grating) are maximized by fixing the microwave frequency to the single-sideband modulator at the BFS ν_B obtained above. Under this condition, the readout light is strongly diffracted by the acoustic grating. The diffracted light is detected synchronously by using the other lock-in amplifier (LIA2) and recorded as a function of the ramp-swept optical frequency of DFB-LD2. In this way, the diffraction spectrum of the acoustic grating to y -polarized readout light is obtained. For measuring the diffraction spectrum, a tunable optical band-pass filter with the about 20-GHz bandwidth is used to eliminate the leakage of the x -polarized probe and pump. The diffraction spectrum of the dynamic acoustic grating established over the

31-meter-length FUT measured at room temperature is plotted in Fig. 7(b), showing that the diffraction spectrum has a profile Gaussian-like rather than Lorentzian. By least-squares Gaussian fitting to the experimental data in Fig. 7(b), we get the birefringence-determined frequency deviation $f_{yx} = 43.8765$ GHz representing the fiber's birefringence $B = 3.27773 \times 10^{-4}$, and the full width at the half magnitude (FWHM) as about 320 MHz. The repeatability test result validates that the frequency deviation can be measured within a standard error of $\delta f_{yx} = 4$ MHz corresponding to a reproducible $\delta B = 3 \times 10^{-8}$. Comparably, a simply switching the SBS measurement along x -axis and y -axis [28] can only give the birefringence accuracy around 10^{-5} , which is insufficient for characterizing strain and temperature responses of the birefringence and for strain and temperature discrimination.

The BGS and the BDG's diffraction spectrum were measured and used to evaluate the ν_B and f_{yx} when different strains were applied to the 31-meter-length FUT. As summarized in Fig. 8, the

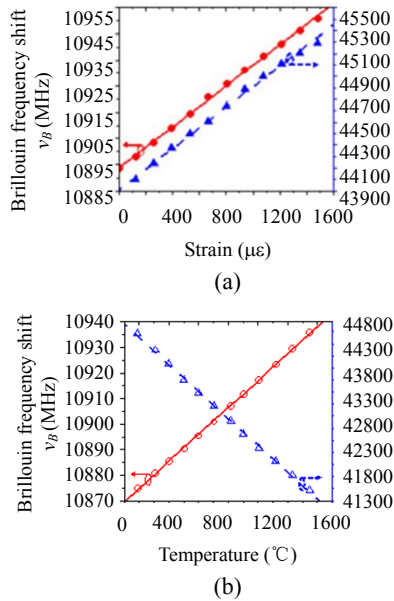


Fig. 8 Measured strain and temperature coefficients: (a) strain dependence and (b) temperature dependence [circles denote the experimental results for the Brillouin frequency shift (ν_B) in left vertical axes, and triangles correspond to the birefringence-determined frequency deviation (f_{yx}) in right vertical axes, respectively] [26] (copyright@OSA OE).

two quantities shift in the same way with the applied strain but in the opposite directions with the temperature. All dependence shows the excellent linearity; thus by linear fitting, we get the strain coefficient and the temperature coefficient of $C_v^{\epsilon} = +0.03938$ MHz/ $\mu\epsilon$ and $C_v^T = +1.0580$ MHz/ $^{\circ}\text{C}$ for the BFS ν_B and $C_f^{\epsilon} = +0.8995$ MHz/ $\mu\epsilon$ and $C_f^T = -55.8134$ MHz/ $^{\circ}\text{C}$ for the frequency deviation f_{yx} , respectively. Using our measured result $f_{yx0} = 43.875$ GHz [see Fig. 7(b)] together with Chiang *et al.*'s result [27] of $(\gamma_3 - \gamma_2)/[(\alpha_3 - \alpha_2)(T_{\text{fic}} - 25)] = 24.3 \times 10^{-6} \mu\epsilon^{-1}$, the coefficients in the fiber are deduced approximately to be $C_f^{\epsilon} = +1.069$ MHz/ $\mu\epsilon$ and $C_f^T = -54.8$ MHz/ $^{\circ}\text{C}$ according to (8) and (9), respectively. It means that the measured coefficients for the frequency deviation f_{yx} match well with our theoretical estimations.

Putting above strain/temperature coefficients into (10) and taking the standard errors of our measurement system ($\delta \nu_B = 0.1$ MHz and $\delta f_{yx} = 4$ MHz, respectively) into account, the accuracy of the discrimination is given as high as $\delta \epsilon = \pm 3.1 \mu\epsilon$ and $\delta T = \pm 0.078^{\circ}\text{C}$. This high accuracy proves the ability of completely discriminative sensing of the strain and temperature. When a set of strain and temperature ($\Delta \epsilon, \Delta T$) was initialized as ($0 \mu\epsilon, 4.9^{\circ}\text{C}$) or ($939 \mu\epsilon, 0^{\circ}\text{C}$) in Fig. 5, for example, two frequency changes ($\Delta \nu_B$ and Δf_{yx}) were measured as (5.1 MHz, -276 MHz) or (37.1 MHz, 849 MHz). According to (3), the strain and the temperature values are calculated as ($-2.3 \mu\epsilon, 4.907^{\circ}\text{C}$) or ($942.6 \mu\epsilon, -0.0197^{\circ}\text{C}$), respectively. They differ from the initialized values with errors as low as ($-2.3 \mu\epsilon, 0.007^{\circ}\text{C}$) or ($3.6 \mu\epsilon, -0.020^{\circ}\text{C}$). This example also verifies the complete discrimination ability of the proposed method.

4. Distributed discrimination of strain and temperature

4.1 Proof-of-concept

For distributed discrimination of strain and

temperature, the localized BDG generation and readout in the PMF should be firstly proved to be effective. A correlation-based continuous-wave technique of the BOCDA system was used for random access [29], and a pulse-based time-domain technique was also employed for continuous access [30]. It was found that the generation and readout optical waves in the BOCDA system should be synchronously frequency-modulated because of the dispersion properties of all four waves (see Fig. 9) [31], including writing light waves (pump and probe), reading light wave (readout), and acoustic wave (dynamic grating as well). Consequently, the local BGS and BDG diffraction grating could be correctly identified, as schematically shown in Fig. 10 [29].

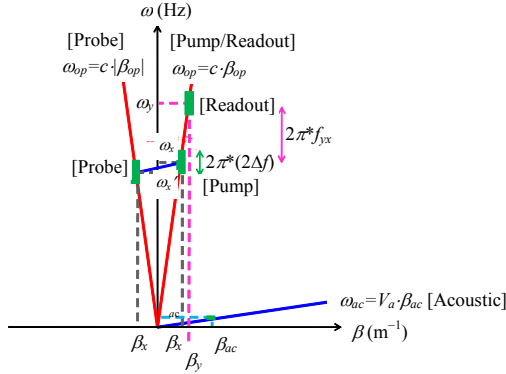


Fig. 9 Dispersion properties of all pump, probe and readout waves together with the acoustic wave (Brillouin dynamic grating) [31] (copyright@OSA OE).

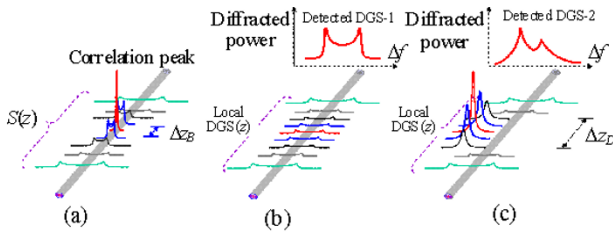


Fig. 10 Schematic of distributed measurement of DGS: (a) beat power spectrum distribution $S(z)$ near the correlation peak: the local dynamic grating spectrum (DGS) when the optical frequency of the readout wave is not modulated (b) or modulated synchronously to the modulation to pump light (c): the top plots show the measured DGS for (b) or for (c) when the correlation peak is localized in a heated segment [29] (copyright@OSA OL).

$$d_m = \frac{c}{2n_{\text{eff}} f_m} \quad (11)$$

where f_m is the modulation frequency of the lasers. However, their spatial resolutions are separately determined by the BGS linewidth ($\Delta\nu_B$) and the BDG bandwidth (Δf_{yx}) as follows [29]:

$$\Delta z_B = \frac{c}{2n_{\text{eff}} f_m} \frac{\Delta\nu_B}{\pi\Delta f} \quad (12)$$

$$\Delta z_D = \frac{c}{2n_{\text{eff}} f_m} \frac{\Delta f_{yx}}{\pi\Delta f} \quad (13)$$

where Δf is the modulation amplitude of the lasers.

Figure 11 depicts the experimental configuration of the distributed generation and readout of the BGS and BDG based on the correlation-based continuous-wave technique [29]. The difference from Fig. 6 is the introduction of the synchronous frequency modulation to the lasers. The measurement range of the distributed BGS and BDG is commonly given by the neighboring correlation peaks of the BOCDA system [1, 29].

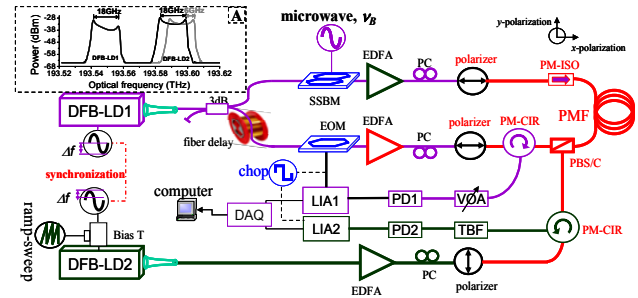


Fig. 11 Experimental configuration for the distributed generating and measuring the BGS and DGS in a PMF (copyright@OSA OL).

The proof-of-concept distributed measurement ability with the 1.2-m spatial resolution was verified as demonstrated in Fig. 12. Four heated segments cascaded along the PMF sample were prepared [see Fig. 12(a)]. The measured BGS and BDG distribution in the first two segments are shown in Fig. 12(b); the characterized ν_B and f_{yx} with opposite responses to the increased temperature are clearly illustrated in Fig. 12(c).

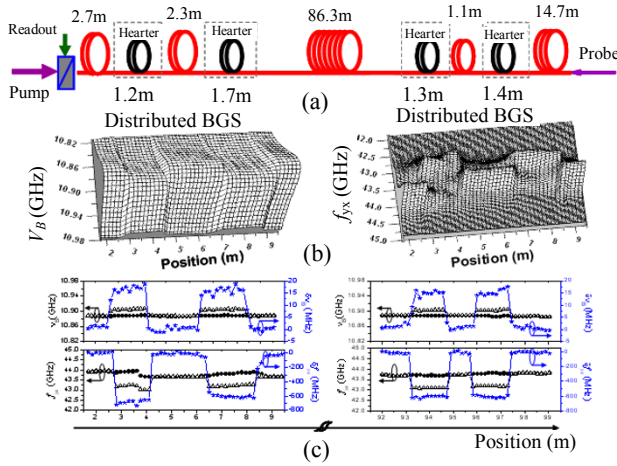


Fig. 12 Distributed measurement results: (a) prepared PMF sample, (b) examples of 3D distribution of measured BGS and DGS from 2 m to 9 m when the heater is turned on, and (c) summarization of the detected BFS v_B (upper) or frequency deviation f_{yx} (lower) and their temperature-induced changes near the heated segments [29] (copyright@OSA OL).

4.2 Two-laser-based scheme of distributed discrimination

By use of the experimental setup shown in Fig. 11, the two-laser-based scheme of distributed discrimination of strain and temperature was successfully demonstrated with the 10-cm spatial resolution [32]. The $f_m = 12.429$ MHz determines the nominal measurement range as $d_m = 8.35$ m according to (11). For local BGS and BDG measurement, $\Delta f_B = 1.5$ GHz and $\Delta f_D = 10$ GHz correspond to the nominal spatial resolution $\Delta z_B = 5$ cm and $\Delta z_D = 8$ cm [see (12) and (13)], respectively.

To validate the feasibility of distributed discrimination of strain and temperature, we constructed an 8-m PMF sample consisting of nine (A–I) cascaded fiber portions of 10 cm – 16 cm in length, which is illustrated in Fig. 13(a). The A, C, G, and I portions were loosely laid at 25.1 °C for reference, while the B, D, F, and H portions were loosely inserted into a temperature-controlled water bath with the 0.1-°C accuracy. The E portion was also inserted into the water bath and glued to a set of translation stages to load strain. The measured distribution of the changes in Δv_B and Δf_{yx} are

summarized in Figs. 13(b) and 13(c), respectively. Referred to the characterized coefficients in Fig. 8 and the cross-sensitivity matrix in (10), the deduced distributions of strain and temperature along the fiber are depicted in Figs. 13(d) and 13(e), which clearly shows the feasibility of distributed discrimination of strain and temperature.

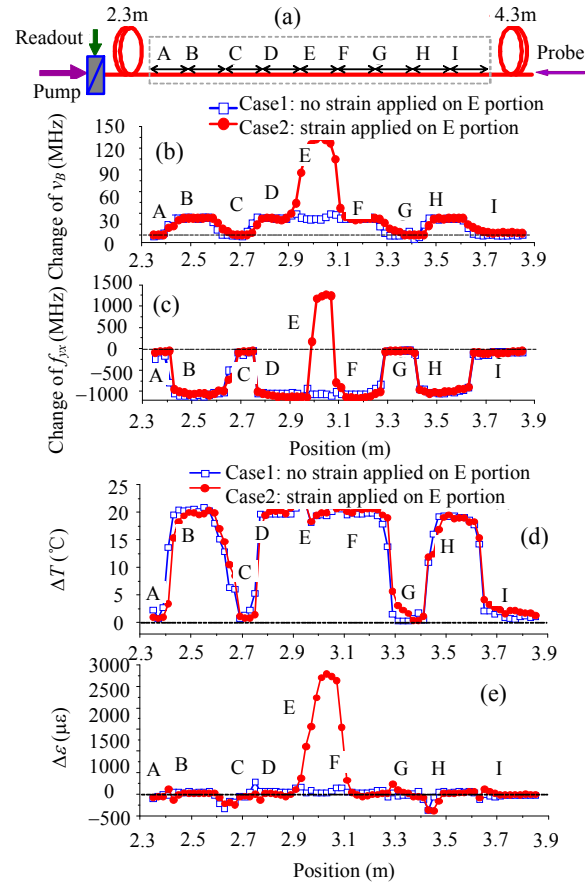


Fig. 13 PMF sample comprising 9 cascaded strained and heated fiber portions (dashed box) with 10 cm–16 cm in length (a), distribution of the change in the Brillouin frequency shift v_B (b), the frequency deviation f_{yx} , and distributed discrimination of strain (d) and temperature (e) [32] (copyright@IEEE PTL).

4.3 One-laser-based scheme of distributed discrimination

Superior to all BDG generation/detection schemes using multiple individual laser sources [29, 30, 32, 33], the one-laser-based new scheme [31] can generate the coherent light waves to write the BDG (pump and probe waves) and to detect BDG

(readout wave) by use of a sideband-generation technique. The new scheme overcomes the relative frequency fluctuations among multiple waves and ensures a much higher precision than previous schemes in the measured BGS and BDG. It can also provide a higher speed in the measurement of the BGS and BDG since the time-consuming averaging process is not necessary.

Figure 14 shows the experimental setup of one-laser-based generation and detection of the BDG in a PMF. A 1549-nm distributed-feedback laser diode (DFB-LD) serves as the laser source. A 40-GHz intensity modulator (IM2) driven by a radio frequency synthesizer (RF2 at ν_{RF2}) with a proper dc bias is used to generate double sidebands with the suppressed carrier (DSB-SC). The output of IM2 is launched into a fiber Bragg grating (FBG) through a circulator. The light reflected from the FBG, after further filtered by a tunable band-pass filter (TBF1), is used as the light source for pump and probe waves to write the BDG. After amplified by an erbium-doped fiber amplifier (EDFA1), the light is divided into the pump and probe waves. The frequency of

the probe wave is down-shifted by a single-sideband modulator (SSBM) driven by another synthesizer (RF1 at ν_{RF1}); the pump is chopped by IM1 for lock-in detection. The pump and probe waves are linearly polarized along the x -axis (slow-axis) of the PMF, which is used as the sensing medium. On the other hand, the light passing through the FBG is used as the readout wave to interrogate the BDG. The readout wave is y -polarized and launched into the PMF in the same direction as the pump wave.

As shown in Fig. 15, the f_{yx} measured in this one-laser-based scheme shows high stability and accuracy (several MHz), while that obtained by the two-laser scheme suffers very high fluctuation (several hundreds of MHz). Compared to the previous two-laser scheme (see Fig. 11), the one-laser-based scheme demonstrated here has the similar spatial resolution (~ 10 cm) and measurement range (~ 5 m), but has several advantages including the faster measurement speed without time-consuming averaging, simpler measurement without sophisticated synchronization, and higher accuracy.

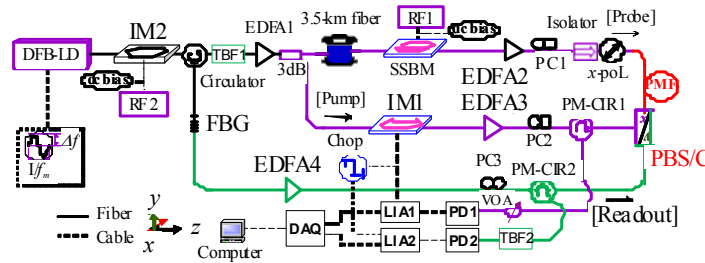


Fig. 14 Experimental setup of one-laser-based Brillouin dynamic grating generation/detection and discrimination of strain and temperature based on BOCDA (the light from DFB-LD is intensity-modulated to generate two sidebands with suppressed carrier) [31] (copyright@OSA OE).

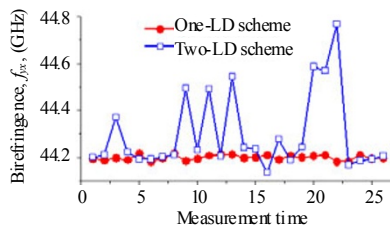


Fig. 15 Comparison of the BDG measurement accuracy between the one-laser scheme and two-laser scheme [31] (copyright@OSA OE).

Figure 16 summarizes the experimental results when the fiber is heated from 25 °C to 30 °C or/and the strain ($\varepsilon = 2000 \mu\epsilon$) is applied both at the location of 3.1 m. It is clear that the imposed strain increases both the ν_B and f_{yx} , while the heating has a contribution to the f_{yx} opposite to that to the ν_B . By referring to the strain and temperature coefficients of the ν_B and f_{yx} [see (10)], we evaluated the distribution of the temperature and strain along the

fiber. The results summarized in Figs. 16(c) and 16(d) match well with the setting situation.

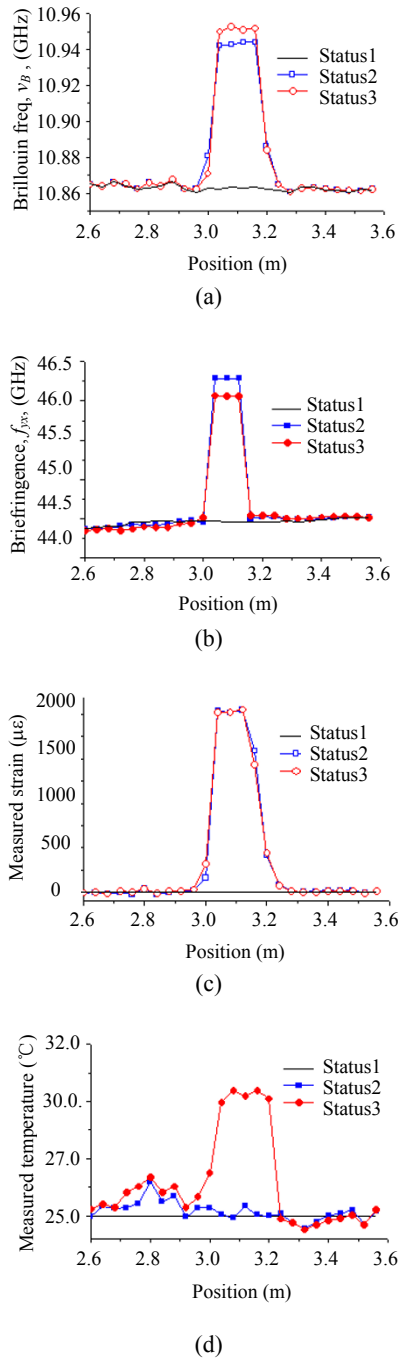


Fig. 16 Measured distribution of Brillouin frequency ν_B (a) and birefringence-determined frequency deviation f_{Bx} (b), discriminated distribution of strain (c) and temperature (d): solid lines (Status 1): $T = 25^{\circ}\text{C}$, $\epsilon = 0 \mu\epsilon$; squares (Status 2): $T = 25^{\circ}\text{C}$, $\epsilon = 2000 \mu\epsilon$; circles (Status 3): $T = 30^{\circ}\text{C}$, $\epsilon = 2000 \mu\epsilon$ [31] (copyright@OSA OE).

4.4 Range elongation of one-laser-based scheme

Due to the nature of the correlation-domain continuous-wave technique in the BOCDA system, the spatial resolutions of the distributed BGS and BDG measurement are in trade-off relation with the measurement range [see (11)–(13)]. It results in a limited range of the distributed discrimination of strain and temperature. To overcome it, the temporal gating [34] or the dual modulation method [35] is introduced into the one-laser-based discriminative sensing system.

The temporal gating method can be easily implemented by use of a pulse modulation of the RF2 that drives the IM2 in Fig. 14. The pulse modulation has $1/N$ duty ratio and $1/N$ repetition frequency compared to that of the LD frequency modulation. The pump-probe interaction occurs only at the positions where the counter propagating probe and pump pulses overlap [36]. As a result, the range given in (11) can be elongated by N times. In the experiment, the spatial resolution was set at 50 cm; the range increased by 20 times (from 25 m to 500 m) [36].

A fiber under test of a 500-m-length fiber composed of two types of the PMF (A and B) is shown in Fig. 17(a). The fiber is emerged in a

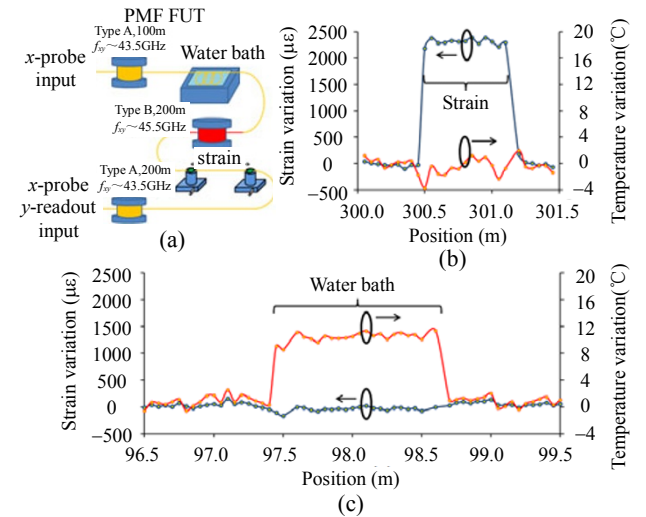


Fig. 17 Experimental results: (a) configuration of the fiber under test, and discriminative distributed measurements of strain (b) and temperature (c) [35] (copyright@IEEE PTL).

temperature controlled water bath for temperature control or pulled with a movable stage to load strain. The distributed discrimination of strain and temperature along the fiber is illustrated in Figs. 17(b) and 17(c), which clearly show the feasibility of the elongated measurement range.

5. Conclusions

We have demonstrated the recent research progress on the discrimination of strain and temperature by use of a single-length optical fiber. After a brief introduction of the preliminary method based on a specially-designed optical fiber, the novel method based on the BDG in a PMF for complete discrimination of strain and temperature is presented. The fundamental principles as well as two different schemes of distributed discrimination of strain and temperature are overviewed. Thanks to the inherent coherence of the writing and reading waves of the BDG, the one-laser-based scheme has more features of the high speed and high accuracy, which are also easily extended with the assistance of the temporal gating method or the dual modulation method. The next research efforts will focus on the improvement in the sensing speed along the entire fiber [37, 38] and the simplification of the entire fiber-optic nerve system towards the real industry application in the smart materials and smart structure.

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